

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 EURE-00 /060 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4621
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 00570

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PFOR WB GE GW UR UK US FR
SUBJECT: ALLIED PROTEST TO SOVIETS ON TRANSIT TRAFFIC

REFS: (A) STATE 5258; (B) BONN 265

BEGIN SUMMARY: BONN GROUP HAS REACHED AGREEMENT ON
A SLIGHTLY REVISED TEXT FOR ALLIED PROTEST CONCERNING
INCIDENTS INVOLVING INTERFERENCE WITH TRANSIT TRAFFIC
BETWEEN FRG AND BERLIN. THE WAY IS THUS CLEAR FOR
USBER TO COORDINATE WITH UK AND FRENCH MISSIONS FOR
DELIVERY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN JANUARY 11 MEETING, BONN GROUP REACHED
AGREEMENT ON A SLIGHTLY REVISED TEXT FOR ALLIED PROTEST
TO SOVIETS REGARDING GDR INTERFERENCE WITH FRG-BERLIN
TRANSIT TRAFFIC. TEXT IS AN AMENDED VERSION OF A
REF DRAFT CONTAINED IN REF (B) AND APPROVED BY
DEPARTMENT IN REF (A).

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2. CONCERNING PRINCIPLE OF PROTEST, UK REP (HITCH)
INFORMED US AND FRENCH REPS IN JANUARY 10 TRIPARTITE
MEETING THAT LONDON FEELS THERE ARE SOUND REASONS NOT
TO RAISE SUCH MATTERS WITH THE SOVIETS, AS A
GENERAL RULE, BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED IN THE
FRG-GDR TRANSIT COMMISSION (TC). THERE WERE EXCEPTIONS,

E.G., STERNFAHRT. HOWEVER, FRG ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF SUCH ALLIED ACTION (PARA 6, REF B) COULD PROBABLY BE USED IN EVERY OCCASION. THE UK WAS WILLING TO RAISE THE TRUCK INSPECTIONS BECAUSE THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONSIDERED IN THE TC. BUT LONDON DID NOT FEEL THAT THE LOEWE-RELATED INCIDENTS ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 22 WARRANTED STERNFAHRT-STYLE TREATMENT. HITCH CONCLUDED THAT HE HAD A FALLBACK POSITION WHICH WAS TO INCLUDE BOTH INCIDENTS IN THIS PROTEST WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT A PRECEDENT IS NOT BEING SET. HITCH REPEATED THESE POINTS IN AN ABBREVIATED FORM IN THE JANUARY 11 FULL BONN GROUP MEETING, ADDING THAT HE COULD AGREE TO THE FULL TEXT ONLY IF THERE WAS A STRONG CONSENSUS FOR INCLUDING THE DECEMBER 22 INCIDENTS IN THE PROTEST.

3. ALSO ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PROTEST, FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) REPORTED TRIPARTITELY ON JANUARY 10 THAT PARIS DID NOT FEEL IT WAS DESIRABLE TO PROTEST TRANSIT INCIDENTS THAT GO NO HIGHER THAN THE TC. THE ALLIES SHOULD INTERVENE WITH THE SOVIETS ON TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT (TTA) VIOLATIONS WHICH ARE REAL VIOLATIONS OF THE QA, THAT IS, VIOLATIONS WHICH ARE RAISED BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN THE TC. NEVERTHELESS, PARIS WAS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THE PACKAGE IN THIS PROTEST RATHER THAN DEAL WITH THE INCIDENTS INDIVIDUALLY. IN THE JANUARY 11 MEETING, BOISSIEU LIMITED HIS REMARKS TO STATING THAT HE CONCURRED WITH THE BRITISH VIEWS.

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4. US REP RESPONDED IN THE BONN GROUP THAT, WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD LONDON'S POSITION IN THE MATTER, HE DID NOT THINK ALLIES SHOULD BE INHIBITED ABOUT GOING TO THE SOVIETS WHEN THEY CONSIDERED THE QA HAD BEEN VIOLATED. NEVERTHELESS, HE THOUGHT BONN GROUP COULD AGREE THAT WE WOULD NOT BE SETTING A PRECEDENT BY PROTESTING IN THE PRESENT CASE BEFORE THE MATTER WAS RAISED IN THE TC.

5. FRG REP (HENZE) COMMENTED THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE TO LINK MEASURES TAKEN BY FRG AND ALLIES IN THIS AREA, PARTICULARLY FOR THE ALLIES TO WAIT FOR FRG TO ACT UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE TTA BY RAISING THE MATTER AT A POLITICAL LEVEL HIGHER THAN THE TC. THERE WAS NO HIERARCHY BETWEEN THE QA AND THE TTA. IF ALLIES FEEL QA IS VIOLATED, THEY SHOULD MOVE INDEPENDENTLY OF FRG ACTION.

6. HITCH THEN INTRODUCED TWO MINOR AMENDMENTS TO

THE TEXT. HE SUGGESTED:

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 00570

-- MODIFICATION OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE
PROTEST (PARA 11, REF B) TO READ:

"ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE US,
FRANCE AND THE UK, I WOULD LIKE TO
DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT
TO CERTAIN INADMISSIBLE ACTIONS BY THE GDR
AUTHORITIES IN RELATION TO TRANSIT TRAFFIC
OF CIVILIAN PERSONS AND GOODS BETWEEN THE
WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AND THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY."

-- DELETION OF THE WORD "FOR" IN THE PHRASE "FOR
A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS" IN THIRD
PARAGRAPH OF THE TEXT AND, FOR REASONS SIMILAR TO THOSE
IN REF (A), SUBSTITUTION OF THE WORD "DURING."

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7. ALL REPS ACCEPTED THESE AMENDMENTS AND GAVE FINAL APPROVAL OF TEXT THUS CLEARING THE WAY FOR DELIVERY BY CHAIRMAN POLAD IN BERLIN.

8. CONCERNING TIMING, UK REP EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PROTEST COULD BE DELIVERED BY CHAIRMAN POLAD IN BERLIN NOT ONLY BEFORE JANUARY 20, THE DATE SET FOR THE TC MEETING, BUT AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE OF JANUARY 19, WHEN AMBASSADOR WRIGHT IS HAVING LUNCH WITH ABRASIMOV. ALL REPS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD AIM FOR DELIVERY THIS WEEK.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT USBER COORDINATE WITH UK AND FRENCH MISSIONS FOR DELIVERY.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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